

12
oncl.

16. The apparatus of claim 13 in which the slit is remote from where the line is secured to the sleeve.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The art of record has been carefully reviewed, and independent claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that the "unbarbed hooks 26" of the Clayton patent are not barbs. The barbs of the present invention are found on each link of the chains. The hooks 26 of Clayton are found only at the bottom of each very smooth link chain.

All of the chains discussed in the art of record include smooth links. None of the prior art chains even remotely suggest barbs on each link.

It follows that claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-10 define over the art of record and are allowable.

Claims 11 and 12-16 are newly presented. Claim 11 is independent and claims 12-16 are dependent from claim 11.

Claim 11 includes the limitation of "a plurality of barbs on the plurality of chain elements." Dependent claim 12 adds that the chain elements comprise a plurality of chains, and each chain includes a plurality of links.

Claim 13 provides that each link of the plurality of links includes a barb.

Claims 14, 15, and 16 further define the slit on the sleeve.

Since independent claim 11 is deemed allowable for the reasons given above for claim 1, it follows that the dependent claims are also allowable.

None of the cited references, Shirk, Clayton, or O'Brien, disclose or suggest the structural limitations of barbs on chains, as stated above. It follows that all of the claims, independent and dependent, define over the art of record and are allowable.

An indication of such allowability is respectfully requested.

For the Examiner's convenience, claim 1 with the noted changes is attached as Exhibit A

If the Examiner would prefer language other than that employed, it is requested that the undersigned Attorney of Record be called in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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On 12-11-02

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Signature

12-11-02

Date